

7 September 1984

The Honorable Richard Helms
The Safec Company
1627 K Street N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

Enclosed please find a draft of a letter for your approval, covering the essential points supportive of the legislation to provide certain benefits to divorced and widowed CIA spouses who were excluded from the benefits of the 1982 CIA Spouses Retirement Equity Act.

Per our conversation, we have prepared a draft of a letter rather than an oral presentation, because there seems to be little chance of the legislation's going through this Congressional session for several reasons: Time is short. It is an election year. [REDACTED]

However, the House hearing is to be held, because it is believed that holding one will expedite eventual passage of the legislation. This means that hearings will be held again in 1985, and we should be very grateful if you would participate at that time. Your stature and universal respect on Capitol Hill would lend much credibility to our cause. We know that we speak for all when we say that each woman to be helped by the proposed legislation would be grateful. As we are now for your interest and assistance.

We hope that you will forward this or a similar letter to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, U.S. House of Representatives. We believe that your words read into the record of the 1984 hearing will help to ensure that 1985 hearings will be held. We are told that both committees are supportive of passing the legislation, and the staff members encourage us that success in the long term is fairly certain.

We thank you.

Sincerely,

Enclosure: 1 [REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED]

The Honorable Edward Boland, Chairman
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Attention: Bernie Raimo
H-405 U.S. Capitol Bldg.

I write to you to urge passage of H.R. 5805, a bill to amend the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement Act of 1964 to provide essential benefits to certain former spouses of CIA personnel not eligible for benefits under that act.

As you know, the Congress in 1982 enacted the Central Intelligence Agency Spouses Retirement Equity Act of 1982 that remedied a longstanding inequity by making it possible for a former spouse of a CIA officer to share in the pension and survivorship rights she would have obtained if their marriage had not been terminated. At the time the Bill was passed, it was recognized that certain former spouses would not be included under such prospective legislation, where the retirement or the divorce preceded the effective date of the new act, 15 November 1982. Senator Inouye at the Senate hearing spoke to the need for later action:

Mr President, I realize that establishing the effective date in this way would leave certain former spouses, who are divorced before enactment of the amendments, without additional protection. While this group has certainly made important contributions....., I have decided ^{not} to pursue a statutory remedy at this time. This is because to do so would be retroactively to change the amount of payments already being received and possibly even to affect the validity of existing decrees. Nevertheless, I feel that at some future date we should consider providing additional benefits to this group in recognition of their important service.

H.R. 5805 would give retirement coverage to these women whose eligibility for benefits are in every sense equivalent to the women already covered. The legislation would not take from the officer or former officer in question whatever

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CIA Spouses (cont'd)

pension he or she has already vested. H.R. 5805 is based upon legislation first passed in 1965 and redefined in 1976, which provides a retirement annuity for certain Foreign Service widows. The experience under this FS legislation has been that a positive contribution ^{has been} ~~was~~ made to certain FS widows. At the same time, the FS legislation has opened no flood gates of abuse or extensive expenditures.

I believe the same will be said for H.R. 5805, as it would apply to a very small number of former spouses but would make a major change in their personal situations. Some of these spouses are literally without resources, despite the fact that they contributed substantially to our intelligence mission and to our government activities abroad over the years of their marriages. The provisions for group health insurance would give all former CIA spouses--now and in the future--vital protection after their long years of service--service that in some cases has resulted in lasting health problems.

Finally, may I say, it was my great honor to lead the agency through a number of years in which the former spouses who would be affected by this bill made a substantial contribution to the agency's mission. I am convinced that it is a matter of simple justice to ensure that their contribution to our country and intelligence mission does not go unrecognized.